

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ARA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 /106 W
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O R 290911Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1308
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRAIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BISSAU 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PO, AO, PU
SUBJECT: BISSAU SUMMIT MEETING: EANES AND NETO AND THE
SPIRIT OF BISSAU

REF: BISSAU 0801

1. BISSAU SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT
EANES AND ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO, UNDER SPONSORSHIP
OF GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT CABRAL, WAS COMPLETE SUCCESS
WITH RESULTS BEYOND OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF GOP
(REFTEL). CONVERSATIONS WENT SO WELL THAT PORTUGUESE
PRESIDENT DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE ONE DAY IN ORDER TO SIGN
BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN HIGHLY EMOTIONAL
CEREMONY TERMINATED BY ABRAZOS AND MOIST EYES.

2. FOLLOWING EIGHT PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN HIGH-LEVEL GOP
EVALUATION OF MEETING, GIVEN TO US BY PORTUGUESE AMBAS-
SADOR BISSAU ON INSTRUCTION FROM PORTUGUESE MINFOR
AFFAIRS.

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3. GOP HAD HOPED MEETING WOULD UNBLOCK BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD BEEN PLAGUED BY MUTUAL
SUSPICION AND MISTRUST SINCE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST
PARTY AND OTHER RADICALS LOST CONTROL IN LISBON.
MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK IN PORTUGUESE-ANGOLAN
RELATIONS HAS BEEN ANGOLAN INSISTENCE ON CONTACTING
GOP THROUGH IDEOLOGICALLY COMFORTABLE UNOFFICIAL

CHANNELS, I.E. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY OR MELU ANTUNES AND HIS FRIENDS. GOP HAS BEEN INSISTING THE RELATIONS MUST BE MOVED TO OFFICIAL LEVEL. LUANDA HAS BEEN RESISTING BUT FINALLY AGREED, WHICH PERMITTED PRESIDENTIAL MEETING IN BISSAU. GOP FEELS THAT MOST IMPORTANT MEANING OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS EXPLICIT RECOGNITION BY GOA THAT RELATIONS WILL HITERTO BE FORMAL AND GOVERNMENTAL.

3. MEETINGS BEGAN IN ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION BUT SOON IMPROVED RAPIDLY AS "SPIRIT OF BISSAU" (PHRASE COINED BY JOURNALISTS AND ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU) TOOK OVER. BOTH SIDES PRESENTED DRAFT TEXT FOR FINAL COMMUNIQUE, WITH ANGOLAN PROPOSAL BEING HEAVILY IDEOLOGICAL AND RADICAL. HOWEVER, ANGOLANS SOON DROPPED THEIR TEXT, AND SETTLED DOWN TO REVISING PORTUGUESE VERSION WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME OFFICIAL TEXT. DRAFTING OF COMMUNIQUE BECAME FRIENDLY OCCASION AS CHIEF DRAFTERS (PORTUGUESE MINFORAFFAIRS SA MACHADO AND ANGOLAN INFORMATION OFFICIAL COSTA ANDRADE, WHO WERE SCHOOLMATES IN ANGOLA, ADDRESSED EACH OTHER IN THE "TU" FORM.)

4. TOUCHY SUBJECT OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED PROPERTY OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS IN ANGOLA WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSED AND TABLED FOR LATER ACTION. ANGOLANS PRESENTED THESIS THAT ALL PORTUGUESE OWNED PROPERTY IN ANGOLA WAS FRUIT OF FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXPLOITATION AND THEREFORE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION. HOWEVER, THEY FINALLY AGREED THAT MATTER WAS LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF GOP AND ALSO AGREED TO DISCUSS LATER. GOP SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS MADE IN ANGOLAN ATTITUDE.

5. THE ANGOLANS COMPLAINED ABOUT UNITA ACTIVITY IN LISBON, AND PARTICULARLY OF PORTUGUESE PRESS COVERAGE OF UNITA CLAIMS AND CHARGES. PRESIDENT EANES PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOP DOES NOT HAVE CONTROL OVER THE PRESS, AND THAT HIS EFFORTS WOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE PERMITTED BY LAW.

6. EANES AND NETO TALKED PRIVATELY FOR THREE HOURS. CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA WAS BROUGHT UP, AND NETO TOLD EANES THAT "WE NEED THE CUBANS" BECAUSE HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION. "IF THERE WERE NO DANGER, WE WOULD NOT NEED THEM."

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7. PORTUGUESE DESCRIBED NETO AS PHYSICALLY IN GOOD SHAPE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY A MAN WHO HAD BEEN ILL AND IS STILL UNDER STRAIN. HE APPEARS OLDER THAN HIS YEARS, TALKS IN LOW AND ALMOST HESITANT VOICE, AND WALKS SLOWLY AND DELICATELY WITH SLIGHT STOOP. (I CAN CONFIRM ABOVE FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION.) NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS IMPRESSIVE AND IN COMMAND.

8. ANGOLAN NEGOTIATING STYLE WAS HARSH AND DIFFICULT; THEY HAVE "LEARNED FROM THE RUSSIANS". PORTUGUESE HAD IMPRESSION THAT ANGOLAN MINFORAFFAIRS PAULO JORGE, DESPITE HIS OBVIOUS TALENTS AND INTELLIGENCE, LACKED CONFIDENCE AND STATUS AND WAS NOT VERY INFLUENTIAL. COSTA ANDRADE APPEARED TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE, AND GOGB OFFICIALS COMMENTED TO PORTUGUESE THAT HIS PRESENCE IN LIEU OF OTHERS WAS IMPORTANT.

9. IN SUM, GOP BELIEVES MEETING WAS GREAT SUCCESS WHICH CREATED NEW OPEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LISBON AND LUANDA. THEY EXPECT SPECIFIC COOPERATION
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AGREEMENTS TO BE CONCLUDED RAPIDLY, TO INCLUDE PORTUGUESE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ASSISTANTS IN ANGOLA AND ANGOLAN STUDENTS IN PORTUGAL. GOP CONVINCED THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP IS FIRMLY BASED AND REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT OPENING FOR WEST IN GENERAL. GOP APPRECIATIVE OF PAST CONSULTATIONS WITH USG AND HOPES THAT FUTURE POLICIES AND EFFORTS BY BOTH OUR COUNTRIES WILL BE EVEN MORE CLOSELY COORDINATED.

10. EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS: PORTUGUESE EUPHORIA ABOUT MEETING AND RESULTS SHARED BY GOGB, WHOSE MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM PRESIDENT CABRAL ON DOWN ARE WALKING AROUND WITH IMMENSE BEAMING GRINS. CABRAL HAD HOPED TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BY BRINGING TOGETHER PORTUGUESE AND MOST IMPORTANT FORMER COLONY WHOSE RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN SCARRED BY MISTRUST AND SUSPICION. CABRAL BELIEVES THAT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE POST-SALAZAR PORTUGAL AND SHOULD BE BASED ON BONDS OF COMMON HISTORY AND LANGUAGE, NOT IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITIES. SUMMIT, THEREFORE, IS SUCCESS FOR HIM AND HIS POLICY.

11. ONE MAJOR ITEM OF INTEREST FOR JOURNALISTS COVERING STORY WAS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND USG POLICY, AND SPECIFICALLY (A) WAS EANES CARRYING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO NETO, AND (B) WHAT WAS CONNECTION BETWEEN BISSAU MEETING AND ARRIVAL OF USG DELEGATION IN LUANDA. ALL WHO WERE QUERIED BY PRESS (INCLUDING ME) REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, THAT THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PURSUING HIS OWN POLICIES, AND THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIAL MESSAGE ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY PRESIDENT EANES MAY WELL HAVE DISCUSSED HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND OTHER WORLD LEADERS WITH PRESIDENT NETO.

12. JOURNALISTS COVERING MEETING COMMENTED FREELY ON ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER "O DIARIO", STATING THAT ABSENCE WAS SIGN OF DISPLEASURE OF PCP. LOCAL SOVIET DIPLOMATS DID NOT APPEAR VERY WELL INFORMED, AND KEPT ASKING US FOR MINOR DETAILS SUCH AS WHEN PRINCIPALS WOULD BE LEAVING BISSAU.

13. ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE COMMENTED THAT ANGOLAN

MINFORAFFAIRS PAULO JORGE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE MAJOR
FIGURE IN ANGOLAN DELEGATION, HE WAS POPULAR INTER-
VIEWEE FOR PRESS. SEPTTEL CONTAINS REPORT ON HIS
INTERVIEW IN ENGLISH BY BBC REP.

14. FULL TEXT OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT BEING
FORWARDED BY AIR POUCH. TEXTS OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE
AND VARIOUS PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ARE IN SPECIAL
ISSUE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER ALSO BEING FORWARDED UNDER
COVER OF AIRGRAM.
MARKS

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